

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

JOHN G. COLLINS, Proprietor.

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Tallahassee, Friday, July 27, 1906.

Get to work in dead earnest, for the whiskey gang have been at work for a number of days, while we have been asleep.

Tampa Tribune: As an example of free and untrammelled journalism, without dictation or deception, the Tallahassee True Democrat is a shining light.

Dear Claude: We think Capt. Menge, way down on the Caloushatchie, has discovered "nature's remedy" for your malady. Better try those pump-snake eggs.

Palatka Times-Herald: "The more thought we give the drainage question, the more convinced are we of the opinion that at the present time the project would involve the useless expenditure of an immense sum of money."

Those pump-snake eggs, Capt. Menge says in a card in this issue, will "cure gall in the human system." That Drainage Board and Claude L'Engle had better take the hint and swallow a few of them. Read the Captain's card.

We understand a trap has been set to catch us napping. That's all right. We have our "feet well on the treadle," and have several traps of our own set, which we believe will catch some more rare game birds in the interest of the people of Florida.

We note Alabama's Governor attended a Press Association meeting and commended his newspaper editors for the good they do. Florida's Governor says in his State they are unprincipled, that they "sell space for so much an inch, with sentiment thrown in." It's all owing to the raising, however. See.

Floridians generally regret that Hon. W. K. Zawadski, of Ocala, and his excellent family have moved to Springfield, Illinois, to reside. Mr. Zawadski has been one of Florida's best and most useful citizens and a zealous Christian worker for all that was good and best. He and family carry the best wishes of Floridians with them to their new home, and may they keep well and prosper. The True Democrat is to visit them regularly.

A New York dispatch of the 22d conveyed to the world the fact that Mr. Russell Sage, one of America's richest financiers, had passed into the great hereafter, to render an account to the Creator for his stewardship here below. He died of heart failure, resulting from a complication of ills, in the 87th year of his age, and was laid at rest Wednesday of this week. Mrs. Sage and her brother, Colonel Slocum, are named as executors of his very large estate, which goes away up into the millions.

Gainesville Sun: "The crop of gubernatorial candidates grows as grass during a rainy season. Those now mentioned are: Cromwell Gibbons, W. J. Bryan, Jacksonville; Jennings, of Pensacola; Horace C. Gordan, Tampa; J. W. Watson, Miami, and E. S. Crill of Palatka. The latter has not announced his intention of entering the race, but sentiment is crystallizing in his favor all over the State. He is recognized preeminently as the man best fitted for the Governorship under present conditions."

So it would seem the True Democrat has even converted L'Engle's Sun to the opinion that the Internal Improvement Board should "not sell any more large bodies of land." Read the quotation from the Jacksonville-Tallahassee Sun: "We believe that the trustees should not sell any more large bodies of land." And then the Times-Union Short Talks man comments thusly: "Why the qualifying adjective? Why should they sell any at private sale? Why should they favor any one in selling lands? Is it not favoring one man when they sell him the land he wants without previous notice to the public in order that if any one else wishes to possess that land he may bid for it?" And it all goes to prove the True Democrat is getting in some good work in the interest of Floridians. The last half of our life shall be far better than the first, after all. Do you see?

SHALL WE HAVE BAR-ROOMS?

The question that is very apt to be thrust upon the people of Tallahassee again in the near future is, Shall this city throw open its doors again to open bar-rooms, with the evils that always follow having them? It is up to the moral, religious and law-abiding citizenship of the city and county to decide that question in the interest of all that is best. Just let all come together with a united and determined effort, and resolve that, being on the right and best side of this question, they will get to work with a determination that this community shall not again be cursed with legalized dealing in whiskey; and that illegal, blind tiger dealers shall be brought up and punished, and we can go in and win the second victory with more ease than we did when the blighting and degrading curse was removed from our midst in the effort of nearly two years ago. Having once rid the city of the open bar-rooms, it would be a calamity and a burning shame to allow it to again come into the capital and our college town.

Let all who feel that Tallahassee is better off without bar-rooms (and we must get rid of blind tigers too) come together, create such a sentiment against it as we can easily do by united and determined action, and the fight will be more than half won in the first battle. The whiskey element cannot possibly put up a single argument on their side of the question. Then with right, the good of the many against the selfish interest of a very few, why should we not succeed in keeping the damning business from our midst in all of its phases—whether it be to sell it legally or illegally? Perhaps the whiskey people will go before the next meeting of our County Commissioners with the petitions they are now endeavoring to secure. Let's meet them at every point, at the very beginning of the contest, and let's make it so hot for them in the campaign that the exciting incidents of the last campaign will come back to and convince them that we go in to win, and that too in the interest of all that is best and to the direct interest of the women and children, and particularly so that the young youth may be saved from the temptations and the influences offered him in the bar-room.

It is a known fact that not near so much money and influence can be secured from the whiskey element as was in hand last time to help defray the expenses of a campaign. Then most of the bar-room stock in this city was owned by outsiders and rich breweries. They spent money lavishly, circulated great stacks of misleading, false and cunningly devised printed literature, and worked countless schemes, besides controlling all the newspapers of the city, and employed speakers and put up a much stronger fight than they can hope for now. All that considered, why cannot the moral, religious element come together in a determined effort and win the victory again? We can do it, and we can keep bar-rooms out, but it cannot be done except by earnest, persistent and determined work. It would be a burning shame and an everlasting disgrace to Tallahassee to allow open bar-rooms to come back once we have rid ourselves of them, and we do not believe a majority of our citizens wish to see our fair city disgraced by allowing it. We have placed ourselves among the respectable dry counties of Florida, which are now largely in the majority, so let's stay there and help set the good example to remaining whiskey soaked ones. So let's get busy and go at them even more determined than we did two years ago, and the victory surely will be for cleanliness, purity and for the best interest of all.

Let's get up another "joint debate" with the whiskey people, even if it will take that to lick them. Prepare to give them a lively tilt for the victory if they succeed in having the election called, and we will surely win, for we are on the right side of the whiskey question, and right properly contended for and in the right spirit must surely prevail and win out. Tallahassee has been without open bar-rooms for about two years, and evidences on all sides prove it's best. Let's never have them again, and let's determine to get rid of the blind tigers too while we are about it, as well as the open-eyed tiger. It can be done. Let's do it so good and hard that the attempt will never again be made to make Leon a wet or whiskey county.

When inconvenient to go to Burns & Co.'s store, telephone your wants and selection will be made with care, and goods promptly sent to your house for approval.

Subscribe for The True Democrat.

BY INFERENCE ONLY—NO, BY FACTS!

The Punta Gorda Herald accuses the Tallahassee True Democrat with assaults against the integrity of Governor Broward. We have seen no indications of such assaults in the columns of that excellent but fearless newspaper. On the contrary, Editor Collins has always affirmed that the Governor is an honest man, honestly devoted to his policies, but misadvised by his friends concerning the methods he is pursuing to accomplish his purposes.—St. Augustine Record.

The Herald did not intend to make a direct and positive charge that the True Democrat impugned the integrity of Governor Broward. The idea was, and is, that the Democrat is so very severe in its strictures on the Governor and his associates of the Internal Improvement Board that the inference irresistibly follows that they must be either very weak and ignorant men, or corrupt. And, as we know that they are not weak and ignorant, what follows?

Anyone who has read the True Democrat attentively for the past month or two would naturally conclude that the True Democrat regards the Governor and his associates as bad men who are unworthy of the confidence and respect of their fellow-citizens. Of course the True Democrat is at liberty to entertain such an opinion, but the Herald respectfully dissents.—Punta Gorda Herald.

The True Democrat has given facts. Its information was based on the records of Monroe county. It made the charges straight from the shoulder, that the lands had been sacrificed, that the sale was made quietly, and that the party who purchased it resold in four days less than a month—or turned the lands over to other parties—at nearly \$35,000 more than was paid for it. Mr. Jennings then attempted to justify the action of the board in a communication to the Times-Union, but made a mess of it and brought out the fact that the leather trust and chemical trust were in the deal; he then tried to fix it in a letter to the Metropolis, but contradicted himself and made matters worse. Then followed Gov. Broward's interview, which stated only that they had precedents for cheap sales, and the law gave them authority to fix any price they saw fit. That was followed by those beautiful little letters, each written to Mr. L'Engle's administration organ; then followed the Kindergarten Grammar School. But as yet no reasonable, plausible, sensible or satisfactory excuse has been given for the sale, and it STANDS A BURNING OUTRAGE, and proves conclusively that great board of czars are not looking after the people's interests and welfare as public servants should, and, to say the least, they do deserve to be censured for it; and the people of Florida have the right to "infer irresistibly" just what they desire, when public transactions are being handled so carelessly, and on "the people be damned" style.

But, my darlings, additional facts have just come into our possession, and we give them as we have gotten them.

This time, too, if you please, we gathered same without bowing into their august presences. Read the following letter carefully and see the "startling information" it brings to you:

Miami, Fla., July 18, 1906.

Mr. John Collins, Tallahassee:

My Dear Sir—As per your request, I went and talked with Mr. Drake about the lands. He tells me that he endeavored to buy these lands, but could not do so. He wrote to a high State official (name withheld for the present) about July 12, 1905, and asked him to see if he could get the land for him. The official writes as follows: He went to see Mr. McLin, the Commissioner, and tried to get them for him. Mr. McLin told him that the lands were not for sale, nor would they give an option to any one on these lands; also said that they intended to drain those lands before offering them for sale. He further told the high State official that the board had entered into an agreement not to sell an acre of these lands until the litigation then pending as to the ownership of the lands was settled by the courts. Now, it is evident that the board at that time had doubts as to who owned the land. The question is, Why should they refuse to sell to a man like that high official, of unimpeachable integrity, and sell to Mr. Jennings, who, in my opinion, never had money enough of his own to buy 100 acres at 41¢ cents per acre.

You will note that they had no price for the lands to the high official, and, so far as McLin knows, that high official might have offered him \$1 per acre. Again, these people, knowing that high official wanted these lands, why did they not notify him when they decided to put them on the market? He certainly applied to them first. If any school boy 10 years old had a piece of land for sale, and wished to get the best price possible for it, and knew that two parties wanted it, he would certainly see both parties before selling.

I am yours, etc.,

P. S.—You will note that Mr. McLin "sidetracked" the high official right along—gave him no encouragement whatever. Possibly they desired to sell to the other parties.

The True Democrat found that the Drake Bro. company had tried to purchase the lands, wrote to a friend who

A WATERHAUL.

Editor L'Engle, of the Tallahassee Sun, published recently a number of "official" communications from administration officials at Tallahassee to show that Editor Collins, of the True Democrat, had been grossly remiss in his mode of procuring trustworthy information concerning public matters, in that he had not applied to said officials for their version of official transactions, and particularly arraigned the latter for such delinquency in the matter of the Jennings sale of Monroe county land (or water) at 41¢ cents per acre, in which the purchaser immediately turned out a clear profit to himself of about \$35,000. The True Democrat thereupon, in effect, admits that it secured the information, not from the State officials, but from the official records of Monroe county, and incidentally relates some of its experiences in attempting to procure information from the State officials. The incident, as set forth by the True Democrat, makes exceedingly interesting reading.—St. Augustine Record.

It was just so; we have made out a good case against the whole "Bunch," and in another column of this issue furnish some more "startling straight information" connected with that Jennings 41¢-cent land sale, which we did not get from either of the letter writing gentlemen of that czarish double-barrelled board (I. I. and Drainage). We have facts on them, however, as Admiral Dewey put it once upon a time when he was on an investigating board after the Spanish-American war. Facts are what's wanted and facts the True Democrat proceeds to give the people of Florida as to public affairs at the State Capital. Read the new facts we now give you in connection with that land sale.

Pump-Snake Eggs.

Fort Myers, Fla., July 18, '06.

Mr. John Collins, Tallahassee, Fla.

Dear Sir—I notice the novel suggestion of the pump snake in your issue of July 13th, to Gov. Broward. While it is a great thing and cannot be beat as a water conductor, still the egg of this snake is of more value, as there is no drug on earth that will extract the gall from the human system quicker than the egg of this snake; and if the party that wrote this piece will kindly send me his address, I will send him a half-dozen of these eggs free of charge. With the use of these he can penetrate the Everglades with impunity, and might offer the Governor some more suggestions which may be of more value to him than the pump snake. Please give this space in your next issue, and oblige, Yours very truly,

CAPT. J. F. MENGE.

We do not know who the author of the pump-snake article was. We copied it for the fun there was in it. We would suggest, however, if the egg is good for "gall in the human system," that Captain Menge send carloads of it to that drainage board, that they may be relieved of their overabundance of that article, and maybe cured and brought to their senses and from under the influence of trickster scoundrels who are seemingly working that drainage scheme in fine shape to drain the entire I. I. business of all its lands and money, and which will eventually bring heavy additional tax burdens on the whole people and still leave the Everglades undrained. It "can't be did," in our opinion, and we have as much right to guess at it as has Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward and his board and their advisers. See!

Just back our officers up with a strong public sentiment and show them that they can count on your support in enforcing the law against illegal selling of whiskey, that they have the full moral and religious citizenship of their county behind them, and then blind tigers will become scarce and prohibition laws will be enforced. Violators of law are always in dread if officers are vigilant and justice is meted out to them by the courts.

Does it not seem a little strange that a few Florida newspapers will attempt to offer an excuse for the I. I. Board selling the State's lands cheap, while that great board itself never attempted to give any justifying reasons for it? A toadying apologist for anything bad is nauseating. As a usual thing such an animal will invariably turn the other cheek to be slapped, or lick the hand that smites, and the world moves on just the same.

stands high for his integrity and as one of Florida's best citizens, to see them about it, and the foregoing letter is what we got verbatim, except we withhold the name of the official and supply the words necessary for smooth reading. The names can and will be furnished if it should be necessary. We wish it thoroughly understood, however, that this official is not a member of any board. He is an official in a department of the government not connected in any manner with any board; but is one of our purest and best public officials, and owns his position to the suffrage of the people.

WE ARE A FREAK.

There are still several very original newspapers in Florida, notwithstanding the lamented demise of Setzer's High Springs Hornet. Amongst these are Albert Williamson's Floridian, which is published in Jacksonville; L'Engle and Taylor's Sun and John Collins' True Democrat, which are published in Tallahassee. These three are pretty "warm members" and furnish highly interesting reading. The Floridian and the Democrat are "agin" the administration, while the Sun supports it. The Sun is also printing some awful things about Hon. John A. Graham, of Manatee county. Any one wanting to read fearless newspapers, should try these three.—Punta Gorda Herald.

Specialties in our line, as it were, then. Well, so long as the True Democrat has the confidence and respect of the best public men of Florida with it in its fight to give publicity to affairs and for correction of abuses we see are being worked against the best interest of the people of Florida, we can afford to be dubbed a "freak." We see good results too ahead for the people.

The Punta Gorda Herald accuses the Tallahassee True Democrat with assaults against the integrity of Governor Broward. We have seen no indications of such assaults in the columns of that excellent and fearless newspaper. On the contrary, Editor Collins has always affirmed that the Governor is an honest man, honestly devoted to his policies, but misadvised by his friends concerning the methods he is pursuing to accomplish his purposes.—St. Augustine Record. And yet, admitting all this to be true, we have never been able to escape the lively suspicion that there was a deal of madness in the Governor's methods, and that "his friends" were just a workin' him.—Palatka News.

Just what we have been endeavoring to make clear all the while, to awaken the newspapers up to—and through them the people of Florida up to—the fact that some bad advisers were leading some State officials into some awkward positions. Surely the work of the True Democrat is beginning to reap some good results from its honest efforts.

It cannot be contended with justice that the Internal Improvement Board did right in disposing of land at a ridiculously low price to Joseph Jennings on the grounds that the property was so worthless that no one else wanted it. How did they know that? It was their plain duty to have advertised the lands and ascertained that no higher bid would be offered. The power to make private sales of public lands is a dangerous one to put into the hands of any set of officers. If it had been ascertained that the lands, so valuable for the bark to be obtained from them, to say nothing of the value of the timber, were wanted by no one else, there would have been no ground for objection to a public sale thereof.—Times-Union Short Talks, July 22d.

They did not know any such thing, and one member of that board at least should have remembered that the Drake Bros. Produce Co. of Miami had tried to purchase the lands through an official at Tallahassee some time before, who was given to understand that none of the lands in that section would be disposed of until the Everglade lands were placed on the market. See letter in another column, and look out for some more "zig-zagging" interviews, letter writing, etc., etc.

Considerable of our editorial space for the last three weeks has been devoted to upholding our first position in relation to that cheap, sacrifice land sale to the Jennings-Leather Trust combine as against the efforts of these parties in combination with State officials to throw cold water on same. We admit too much of anything becomes tiresome, but believe our readers and rest of the people of Florida, in whose interest the True Democrat is working, will appreciate and excuse us for giving so much of it. If you have read the newspaper comments and the efforts of the I. I. Board's mouthpiece, you will readily see a continuation of it has been persistently thrust upon us. We have upheld our position in the premises, and now believe the people of Florida are ready to agree with us fully, that the I. I. Board (also Drainage Board) have been proven recalcitrant to the trust reposed in them, that THEY (the members) have willfully and deliberately disposed of another large body of I. I. land at a sacrifice, and by doing so have allowed a shrewd land speculator to make a good amount of money in a short time that should rightfully and properly have gone into the I. I. treasury, and which should, after it went there, have gone for good road building or some equally meritorious work, from which the citizenship as a whole would derive benefit, rather than be sunken in Everglade "ditch digging." We hope this week's issue will end the discussion so far as we are concerned, as we have other matters we hope to be able to throw some light upon.

Fewer Gallons; Wears Longer; Devoes.